THE BALDY MOUNTAIN CABIN

THE HISTORY AND ROLE OF FOREST RANGERS AND GAME WARDENS IN THE BALDY MOUNTAIN AREA

by

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PRELUDE

The role played by the early forest rangers and game guardians in the development of the Duck Mountain area is significant. Yet, the history of these dedicated and resourceful men has been largely ignored. With the exception of a few footnotes in departmental correspondence, virtually all record of these achievements is available only by "word-of-mouth".

The events which led up to the development of the Duck Mountains, as we now know them, are so closely related to the activities of these field men, that they become one story.

INTRODUCTION

The vast timbered areas of the Duck Mountains attracted loggers before the early setters established themselves on the fringes of the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve. The first recorded timber cut in the area took place in 1880. Later, timber harvesting operations expanded throughout the forest reserve. Settlement in the Gilbert Plains area followed and the town of Grandview was established in 1898.

Agricultural development resulted in an increased demand for forest products for homesteads.

New settlers to the area provided an abundant supply of labour for bush work in the winter to supplement their farm incomes. When the first tree toppled, the necessity for forest rangers arose, not only to supervise cutting operations, but to control wildfires as well.

Three of the most significant events to affect the evolution of natural resource management in this area of the province, were the designation of the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve in 1906; the Duck Mountain Game Preserve in 1911; and the Duck Mountain Provincial Park in 1964.

With its designation as a forest reserve, management of the Duck Mountains became the responsibility of forest rangers. When the game refuge was established, game guardians were required to enforce legislation. With the creation of a provincial park, Park Rangers were necessary to provide a management role. Although the working titles of these three groups have varied over the years,

their resource management role is viewed as a significant feature in the development of the area. Today, the responsibilities of all three of these positions belongs to the Natural Resource Officer.

A LOOK AT THE EARLY FOREST RANGER AND GAME GUARDIAN

References to "forest keepers" and "game guardians" can be found documented well back into history. One of the earliest references dates back to King Edgar of England, who reigned from 959 to 975 A.D. This King prohibited hunting of his deer and appointed officers to preserve "all Game of the Table" in his woods.[1]

These officers were possibly the first Conservation Officers. In 1016, King Canute published Forest Laws and appointed Forest Officers.[2]

In North America, the positions of Game Guardians and Forest Rangers have exsisted for approximately 300 years. (The first are recorded as being from the United States.)

Possibly the first reference to wildlife legislation in Canada is found in 1794, when Nova Scotia passed an act for preservation of "partridge and blue-winged duck".

In 1876, Manitoba proclaimed its first Game Preservation Act. The Act of 1879 permitted the appointment of guardians having the power of constables to enforce the Act.[3] Management of game fell under the Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics. Responsibilities for the Game Branch remained under the Agriculture ministry until 1930-31 when it was transferred to the Department of Mines and Natural Resources.[4]

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[1] William Sigler, Wildlife Law Enforcement (Utah State University), p. 2.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Melody L. Goatcher, Manitoba Legislation Affecting Wildlife From 1876-1972 (Manitoba, Dept. of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, 1975), p. 5.

[4] J.H. Ellis, Ministry of Agriculture in Manitoba 1870-1970 (Manitoba Dept. of Agriculture, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1970), P. 294.

By 1883, local game guardians were at work in Manitoba.[1] It was not until 1902 that a provincial game guardian was appointed. His name was C. Barber.[2] He occupied the position until 1919. In 1905 an additional employee was added, and in 1909, John Keyes and William H. Joyce were hired as deputies. Later, six to eight game guardians were appointed and 18 or more extra game guardians and inspectors were hired for intervals of up to three months during hunting seasons. By May 1, 1920, prosecutions of game matters were handled by seven inspectors and game guardians of the Manitoba Provincial Police. The Inspector for the Western Judicial District was J.K. Foster, while for the Dauphin Judicial District it was Inspector Martin.[3]

Routine activities of the game branch were administered by the Ministry of Agriculture until they were taken over by Mines and Natural Resources in 1930-31.[4]

In 1895 the first Forest Reserves were established in what is now Manitoba. In 1906 the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve was created and controlled by the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior which was created for this purpose.[5]

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[1] J.H. Ellis, Ministry of Agriculture in Manitoba 1870-1970 (Manitoba Dept. of Agriculture, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1970), p. 133.

[2] Ibid. p. 134.

[3] Ibid. p. 175.

[4] Ibid. p. 294.

[5] Canada, Department of the Interior, Annual Report, 1902-1903 (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1904), p. 7.

The Dominion Government was responsible for natural resources until 1930. Federally appointed forest rangers exercised control over the Forest Reserves until the Resource Transfer Agreement took effect and the Province of Manitoba assumed control. When this happened, the federal officers were given the option of staying with the federal government or becoming provincial forest rangers.[1]

From 1930 until 1961, provincial forest rangers held authority for the Duck Mountain area. Various headquarters referred to as "Ranger Stations" were located at strategic locations.

For example, a forest ranger was stationed at Grandview. The forest ranger stationed there was responsible for a district which included the Baldy Mountain area.

Besides the forests, the rangers were also responsible for recreational facilities located within their jurisdiction.

From the time of the resource transfer until approximately the outbreak of World War II the forestry branch organization remained relatively static. With the transfer of resources taking place in July of 1930, the first complete year that the province exercised it's control was 1931. For this reason it is useful to examine the organization as it exsisted at that time:

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[1] F. de Delley, Federal Forest Ranger, (retired). Personal communication.

1931

FOREST SERVICE[1]

		annual salary
DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY: (Provincial Forester)	Col. H.I. Stevenson (Winnipeg)	$3612.00
	WESTERN REGION	
DISTRICT FORESTER:	A. Bainbridge (Dauphin)	2430.00
FOREST ENGINEER:	Syze Wilte Schortinghuis (Dauphin)	1656.00
FOREST RANGERS:	Ernest Albert Koons (Dauphin)	1656.00
	T.H. Pollon (Senior Forest Ranger, Swan River)	1800.00
	R.A. Farewell (Birch River)	1545.60
	John James Wright (Assistant Forest Ranger - Rice Creek)	1104.00
	William Grant Shiel (Minitonas)	1380.00
	Roy Bell (Garland)	1380.00
	Harold Clee (Grandview)	883.20
	Hilton Leonard Kendrick (Assistant Forest Ranger - Bield)	1104.00
	Charles Everett Dunlop (Assistant Forest Ranger - Boggy Creek)	1104.00
	Donald Stewart Sinclair (Durban)	

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[1] Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Accounts Branch, Annual Report, 1932.

Harold Clee was the forest ranger in charge of the Grandview Ranger District in 1931. His headquarters was located at the Grandview Ranger Station, approximately nine miles north of the town of Grandview.

A number of forest rangers have been in charge of the district. In 1912 the Forest Ranger at Grandview was J.J. Barnett. In 1914 a ranger by the name of J.H. Cairns was in charge and he looked after the district for over a ten year period.[1]

Ranger J.J. Wright was in charge until August 31, 1925.[2] He was replaced by Donald S. Sinclair[3], who remained until November 30, 1930 when Harold Clee transferred in.[4]

The next recorded change took place when Cecil H. Patterson took over. The approximate date of his transfer was 1941, and he remained until 1944 at which time Ranger Joe Koke took charge.[5] He was replaced by Tony Machuk in 1948. Bill Mawdsley was the forest ranger in charge from 1948 until 1971.

Brent Lees worked at Grandview for a short time before Lars Porath arrived in 1971. Lars continues in charge at present.

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[1] Emmy Preston, Pioneers of Grandview and District (Carillon Press, Steinbach, Manitoba, 1976), p. 58.

[2] Diaries of J.J. Sinclair, August, 1925.

[3] Diaries of Donald S. Sinclair, September, 1925 to 1930.

[4] Report of Committee of Executive Council #31/32. January 1, 1932, p. 1.

[5] Joe Koke. Personal communication.

GAME BRANCH ORGANIZATION

Fred Howell was employed as a game guardian with the Department of Agriculture prior to the Department of Mines and Natural Resources taking on the responsibility of the game branch in 1930/31. An article in the Game and Fish magazine indicates that prior to 1930, Howell was a game guardian in the Riding Mountain area for seven years. (1923 to 1930) In 1930, he was appointed Chief Game Guardian.[1]

Howell made the occasional trip by saddlehorse through the Grandview and Duck Mountain areas in the days in the field.[2] In 1947, Howell was still listed as Chief Game Guardian.[3]

The organization of the Game Branch is somewhat vague during this same time period. It is known, however, that there were local game guardians in the Western part of the Province as of 1902.[4]

A. G. Cunningham was the Director of the Game and Fish Branch in 1931/32 and remained in that post until 1947 when Mr. Mal aher took over as Acting Director of Fish and Wildlife.[5] This was not a position requiring any game law enforcement.

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[1]Taken from article, "Fred Howell, Chief Game Guardian", Game and Fish, March, 1949. vol.4, no.3.

[2]Herb Krentz, Game Guardian, (retired.) Personal communication.

[3]Manitoba, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Accounts Branch, Annual Report, 1947.

[4]C. Barber, Annual Report, 1902, Provincial Game Guardians. Sessional Paper (no.6). (Department of Agriculture and Immigration).

[5]Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Accounts Branch, Annual Report, 1932 to 1947.

Departmental vehicle records show that J. Rockcliff was assigned a vehicle at Swan River in 1931/32.[1] Records also show that he was a temporary game guardian until 1936. He was no longer listed after 1943.

Mr. P.W. Durant of Dauphin is also listed as a Game Guardian during this period.[2] Durant cannot be found listed at Dauphin after 1935, but he remained as a Game Guardian until at least 1946. It is very likely that these men patrolled the Duck Mountain area. A local game guardian may also have resided at Grandview during the same period.

By 1943, Bob Norquay was the game guardian located at Grandview.[3]

Hugh Guttman replaced Norquay in 1957 and remained at Grandview until 1961[4] at which time the Game Branch and Forestry Branch amalgamated under one Department.

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[1] Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Accounts Branch, Annual Report, 1931/32.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Herb Krentz, Game Guardian, (retired.) Personal communication.

[4] Hugh Guttman, Game Warden, (retired.) Personal communication.

THE LEGEND OF BALDY MOUNTAIN

From 1883 to 1888 a number of large fires burned through the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve. According to Bill Mawdsley and Bob MacKenzie, these fires were purposely set by local Indians to deter the presence of the whiteman. "Louis Riel told the local natives to burn the trees. Without them there would be no settlers because the whiteman did not use tents and they needed the trees to build their houses," theorizes Bob MacKenzie on local history.[1] Mawdsley states that one of these fires burned continuously for three years, remaining under the ground in winter.[2]

According to MacKenzie, early game guardians capitalized on the destruction of these fires. In the 1880's, for example, both Ketchum Hill (near the current Ketchum Lake) and Baldy Mountain were both burned "bald" by the fires. The game guardians are thought to have set up camp on these high hills to watch for smoke from the cooking fires of those in the area. The hill thereby got its name Ketchum! Baldy Mountain reportedly got its name from it's bald crest due to the fires.

The role of the early forest rangers had a significant affect on the entire development of the Duck Mountain area. The two major objectives of the earliest forest rangers were to protect the forests from wildfire and to mark the reserve boundaries.

To fulfill their mandate, a central cache of fire-fighting equipment was established in the heart of the forest reserve. This fire cache was located at a waterbody which became known as Cache Lake.

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[1] Bob Mackenzie, Forestry Technician, (retired.) Personal communication.

[2] Bill Mawdsley, Forest Ranger, (retired.) Personal communication.

Since much of the routine work was carried out along the reserve periphery, access trails soon were developed to the central fire cache.[1]

Examination of early maps of the reserve clearly shows that these trails and roads were developed for access. Forest harvesting operations which subsequently followed, and made good use of these trails for their purposes.

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[1]Bob MacKenzie, Forestry Technician, (retired.) Personal communication.

THE BALDY MOUNTAIN TOWER AND CABIN

The highest elevation in this Province is at Baldy Mountain, which makes it an ideal site for a forest fire lookout tower. From the early days of the Dominion Government Forest Service, the importance and value of forest lookout towers was evident. The earliest towers were constructed of wood and provided height for viewing surrounding areas for detecting fires. One of the most fundamental principles of fire fighting is early detection since fires are easiest suppressed when small in size.

As time evolved, wooden towers were systematically replaced with steel and by 1957, only two wooden towers remained in western Manitoba.[1]

TOWERS

Over the years, three fire lookout towers have exsisted at Baldy Mountain. One remains in service today.

The first tower was constructed in 1914 by the Dominion Forest Service.[2] It was made of wood with a height of approximately 40 feet.

The construction of the second Baldy Mountain tower took place in 1926. The project was carried out by Ranger Donald S. Sinclair with the assistance of various local people. His diary entries from 1926 outline the construction job:

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[1] E.A. Koons, District Forester, Manitoba Forest Service, Western District Annual Report, 1958, p. 2.

[2] Canada, Department of the Interior, Forestry Branch. Annual Report, 1914 (Ottawa: King's Printer 1915), p. 45.

"October 19 - From Ranger Station to settlement N.E. Arranged for help to work on Baldy Mountain tower in forenoon. Getting stuff ready to go up to Baldy in afternoon."

"October 20 - From Ranger station to Baldy Mountain. Taking Nick Yurkiw and team and P. Huska."

"October 21 - Hauled cement and gravel to Baldy Mountain. Started to layout tower."

"October 22 - At Baldy Mountain, working at tower. Cut hauled and put up 40' gin pole. Pete Huska and N. Yurkiw working."

"October 23 - Put tower together completed 60 ft of it. P. Huska, N. Yurkiw, Leslie McComb, Thos McComb and Mike Burka, working."

The work continued and a later entry states:

"October 27 - At Baldy Mountain. Rigged up tackle and pulled the tower up with 6' braces on but without platform or cap. Levelled the tower and cemented in two feet."

Work on the platform continued later. When completed the second tower was approximately 65 feet tall.[1] This tower was later dismantled in 1957 and then erected once again at a new site, known as Raymond Tower Site.[2]

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[1] Don McKinnion, Regional Superintendent, (retired.) Personal communication.

[2] E.A. Koons, District Forester, Manitoba Forest Service, Western District Annual Report, 1958, p. 16.

By this time, the surrounding tree cover had grown up substantially since the devastating fires of the 1880's and taller structures were required to provide an unobstructed view.

In 1957 the third of three fire lookout towers was erected at the Baldy Mountain Site.[1] This tower remains in service today. It is designed with a steel frame 80 feet high above which sits a wooden cupola to house the observer. The cupola has sliding windows on all sides. Gordon Bates was the senior forest ranger in Swan River at the time and he supervised this tower's construction.

The Central Trail through the Duck Mountain Reserve passed by Baldy Mountain. This access, coupled with Baldy's natural elevation have made this tower location important even today.

With the use of radios in the forestry service, this site took on a new and important role - that of a "key location" for communications.

A towerman named Albert Ridley was hired on April 27, 1926[2] and he manned the tower for several years. He was still manning the tower by the time Cecil Patterson took over as Forest Ranger in charge in the early 1940's.[3] Another towerman followed for a brief time before Ben Hewitt began manning the tower in 1945. Hewitt continued to perform the duties of "key towerman" and radio operator until his resignation in 1958. Ben had also worked as a towerman in the Grandview District prior to World Was II. During 1929 he manned the Parrott Tower.

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[1] E.A. Koons, District Forester, Manitoba Forest Service, Western District Annual Report, 1958, p. 16.

[2] Taken from the diaries of Donald S. Sinclair, Forest Ranger. April, 1926.

[3] Joe Koke, Chief Forest Ranger, (retired.) Personal communication.

[4] Taken from the diaries of Donald S. Sinclair, Forest Ranger.

CABINS

Over the years three tower cabins have also exsited at Baldy Mountain, of which two remain.

The first cabin was built by the Dominion Forest Service in 1914.[1] Bob MacKenzie believes the first cabin was built just prior to the first lookout tower, also built the same year, so the workers would have accomodation while completing the tower construction.[2] It remained in use for several years. On August 3, 1925, Ranger J.J. Wright spent the night at the cabin. The entry in his diary for August, 1925 states:

> *"August 3 - Went to Northern limit of District on Central Road and back to Baldy Mountain, inspected road and Central Telephone Line (North of Baldy) for estimate of repairs. Over night at Baldy."*
>
> *"August 4 - Inspected tower and returned to Ranger Station, made estimate for repairs to tower and Central Road and Central Telephone Line between Baldy Mountain and Ranger Station."*

The second cabin was also built by the Dominion Forest Service. Construction work began on a new cabin on September 28, 1925.[3] This log cabin is still in existance, located west of the fire tower; near the base of the steep incline along the "old central trail." This location was chosen to be proximal to an abundant water supply. The building was constructed of logs as was the nearby stable.

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[1]Canada, Department of the Interior, Forestry Branch. Annual Report, 1914 (Ottawa: King's Printer 1915), p. 45.

[2]Bob MacKenzie, Forestry Technician, (retired.) Personal communication.

[3]Taken from the diaries of Donald S. Sinclair, Forest Ranger. September, 1925.

Donald S. Sinclair replaced J.J. Wright as the forest ranger at Grandview Ranger Station on September 1, 1925 and remained at that location until November, 1930. He was responsible for the cabin's construction. Entry in his diary of 1925 states:

"September 28 - Took tools and supplies up to Baldy Mountain Cabin for work on logs there."

"October 6 - Sent team up to Baldy Mountain to move logs."

"October 26 - Went to Baldy Mountain taking men and supplies to start work on the new buildings there."

"October 27 - At Baldy Mountain working on new cabin."

"October 28 - Worked on new cabin at Baldy Mountain."

On November 9 Sinclair returned to Baldy to continue work on the new cabin and stable. His diaries from November 10 to 21, 1925 outline the work being done on the cabin and stable. The diary entry of November 14, 1925 indicates Sinclair returned to the Ranger Station for supplies. But, the November 18 entry states:

"November 21 - Worked on stable in forenoon. Piled all unused lumber in cabin and nailed doors and windows. Returned to Ranger Station in evening."

The third cabin was built in 1953. The main reason for its creation was to provide accomodation for the towerman closer to the fire lookout tower, without having to climb the steep hill.[1] Bill Mawdsley, Forest Ranger, helped to build this cabin.

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[1]Bill Mawdsley, Forest Ranger, (retired.) Personal communication.

THE BALDY MOUNTAIN TOWER CABIN

The Baldy Mountain Tower Cabin (the old log structure at the base of the incline) is the oldest forestry cabin still in service within Western Manitoba, and possibly the entire province.

Originally built by the Dominion Forest Service to accomodate the towerman on fire lookout duty, it has seen a variety of uses throughout the years.

THE BALDY MOUNTAIN CABIN - BUILT IN 1925 (1988 photo)

Roads within the Duck Mountain area have gradually improved. It was not until 1949 that construction of the new road from Grandview to the tower began. But in the early days, the Towerman would have been content to call the tower cabin "home" for the entire fire season. Joe Koke, Forest Ranger in charge of the Grandview District from 1944 to 1946 recalls hauling supplies by wagon to towerman Ben Hewitt. Due to conditions at that time, he would often find it necessary to overnight before returning to the Grandview Station.[1]

Although the cabin was used the most often in the summer, it was during the winter that it received the greatest assortment of visitors.

Winter is the traditional time for most forest operations to be carried out. The frozen conditions allow travel into areas inaccessible in summer and those timber harvesters that farm during the summer are now free.

In the winter, forest rangers made frequent inspections of cutting operations to ensure compliance with regulations. This could involve marking boundaries, inspecting cutting areas or ensuring the permittee only did what was authorized. The Baldy Mountain Cabin was an ideal base of operation for the local Forest Ranger.

Donald S. Sinclair was probably the first person to stay in the Baldy Mountain Cabin after it's construction (the log structure of 1925). According to his diaries, very frequent use was made of the cabin from the time of it's construction until he was transferred in November of 1930.

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[1]Joe Koke, Chief Forest Ranger, (retired.) Personal communication.

An example of his use of the cabin can be found in the diary entries of 1930:

> *"January 21 - Started for Baldy Mountain with single horse and jumper on account of heavy roads went into P. Lesink's new camp N.W. of Stony Creek, stayed overnight there."*
>
> *"January 22 - Brought jumper out to Central Road, packed heater, grub, etc. on horse and walked to Baldy Mountain. Snow knee deep. Put up heater in stable and fixed up cabin and stable. Property O.K. in Cabin."*
>
> *"January 23 - Looked over cutting being done and marked timber on Millsite 57. Went to Mill met Medwid Bros. (trappers) there."*
>
> *"January 24 - Travelled from Baldy Mountain to Mulligan farm. Property O.K. at R.S."*

As noted by Joe Koke, on occasion, the permittees did more than harvest timber. While forest ranger at Grandview, Koke recalls settlers from as far away as Sifton, coming to the area around Baldy Mountain. Some would poach elk or other wildlife while in the area. A load of lumber or fence posts made for a solid alibi for being in the area. It also served to conceal the illegal meat. With the influx of people to the area, came a need for additional game guardians as well.

As far back as records show, the game guardians frequently used the cabin as a stopping point on their "extended patrols".

Herb Krentz worked out of Singush Lake, while training under Game Guardian, Alf Lundy. He can recall patrols which lasted

up to six continuous weeks.

Throughout most of the province there was a network of cabins. The game guardians would travel on foot or by horse from one patrol cabin to the other. Herb Krentz can recall using the Baldy Mountain Cabin for this purpose.

Alf Lundy, Game Guardian at Pine River, recalls travelling by dog team to Baldy Mountain while on patrol. For three nights he stayed in the cabin, climbing the firetower at night to look for smoke from the fires of poachers camped out in the area.

When a new cabin was built under the supervision of Ranger Mawdsley in 1953, the forestry service saw little need for the old cabin.

From 1953 until 1961 the old cabin was used almost exclusively by the game branch for their duties. Since much of their work was carried out by saddlehorse, they were also able to make use of the log stable which is near the cabin.

From 1961 onward, the use of the oldest forestry cabin dwindled, with most activities centered around the newer building. Currently, good quality all-weather roads allow for better transportation and most duties now consist of day trips. Even the towerman can return to headquarters after a day "up-the-tower".

In 1961, the department underwent a reorganization. Until this point, there were forest rangers, game guardians and fisheries officers. The three positions were combined under the title of Conservation Officer. In 1962, there were 124 Conservation Officers, compared to 22 forest rangers and game guardians. In 1988, approximately 128 Natural Resource Officers are assigned to field positions.

CONCLUSION

When you think about the history of the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve and Park you must also think of the early forest rangers and game guardians and the role they have played in this area.

No where in the Province of Manitoba is this developmental role more evident than in the Duck Mountains. One of the most historically significant and poignant symbols of the work of the game guardians and forest rangers is the little patrol cabin tucked away near the base of Baldy Mountain. Inside this tiny building beneath Manitoba's highest point stands a symbol of progress and initiative in Manitoba's resource development history.

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

Gordon Bates was employed as a Senior Forest Ranger in the Western Region from 1945 to 1971. During that time, one of his responsibilities was to build fire lookout towers. He did, in fact, supervise the construction of the Baldy Mountain fire tower in 1957. In total, Bates built 42 towers during his career in forestry.

The first task in construction of a fire tower is the pouring of cement footings. If put in properly, the entire tower goes up easily. Next, the metal structure would be put in place.

Bates used a crew of five men. One for each corner of the structure plus one man on the ground.

The Baldy Tower was built 80 feet high plus the additional height of the wooden cupola at the top. It took the crew about 14 hours to assemble a fire tower.

Bates also supervised the construction of the Grandview Fire Tower plus four others in the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve.

Vini Norman worked as a Forest Ranger in the Western Region from 1941 until his retirement in 1969.

From 1941 to 1948 he was stationed at Garland where routine patrols took him into the Duck Mountains. One of his responsibilities was to conduct line patrols of the Forestry telephone system.

A telephone line connected the fire lookout towers to provide communications prior to the addition of radios in the late 1940's.

Within the Garland District, the line ran from the Garland Fire Tower, to Singuish Lake, Minitonas and to Baldy Tower. Other lines reached to Grandview, Deepdale and Boggy Creek.

Telephones were essential in the fire towers. Once a towerman spotted smoke, he would descend to the tower cabin and use the telephone to report the fire and its location.

On his line patrols, Norman would work his way to Baldy Mountain, sometimes overnighting before starting back. The old log cabin provided adequate accommodation. Its furnishings included a cookstove, heater, bunkbed, table, stool, coal-oil lamp and telephone. The stable provided a welcome feature for the ranger's mount.

By 1941, the fire towers were equipped with alidades. Although these ones had not yet been modified to hold a map beneath the sight.

Joe Koke began a long distinguished career with the Forestry Branch in 1944 and retired in 1974.

From 1944 to 1946 he was stationed at Grandview. During that time he quite frequently stayed at the Baldy Mountain Cabin. Often, he would take provisions on horseback to the towerman who spent the summer at the cabin. Larger quantities would be hauled by wagon.

Koke recalls a local game guardian at Grandview who patrolled the area. The game guardian would frequently use the Baldy Mountain Cabin as a base of operation.

Farmers and settlers would come from all over to harvest forest products from the Forest Reserve. One well harvested location was a sawmill near the firetower. While in the area for forestry business, poaching of elk and other wildlife would result. The wild meat could be well concealed beneath fence posts or lumber.

Bill Mawdsley was a Forest Ranger in the Western Region from 1939 until his retirement in 1971. From 1948 until 1971 he was stationed at Grandview, where he continues to live in retirement.

It was in 1953 that Mawdsley cut the logs and helped with the construction of the newest Baldy Mountain Cabin. He vividly recalls many other events from his 23 years spent in charge of the Grandview District.

Occassionally he would overnight at the old cabin. He also recalls when Ben Hewitt, district fire ranger, lived one entire winter at that cabin. Hewitt was responsible for manning the Baldy Mountain fire tower during the fire season, from 1945 until his resignation in 1958. From this vantage point, Hewitt was able to pick-up smokes from incredible distances.

As a Forest Ranger, Mawdsley was not required to carry out wildlife related duties prior to 1961. But, he remembers the game wardens who worked in the area. Over the years he says they had a tendancy to move in and move out. He recalls Game Warden Bob Norquay moving into the area in approximately 1942 or 1943. A fellow named Ewasiuk moved in very briefly, followed by Hugh Guttman.

Hugh Guttman was a game warden. He hired on in 1955 and retired in 1984. From 1957 to 1964 he was stationed at Grandview, where his district included part of the Duck Mountains.

On numerous occassions Guttman would patrol by horse, staying in the old Baldy Cabin. He found it well suited for this purpose, due to the stable located at the site. He would haul in hay during the summer; but while on patrol he just took what was needed for the night.

On some occassions Guttman would travel to Baldy Mountain using a toboggan pulled by two dogs. Baldy Cabin was only one of a series of cabins throughout his district. Game Wardens would travel from one to the other while performing their duties.

Herb Krentz was hired as a game warden in 1945. He rode saddle horse out of Singush Lake around 1946.

On one occassion he left on a patrol which continued for six weeks. This extended patrol took him to a series of patrol cabins, including the one at Baldy Mountain, Ketchum Lake, Key Lake, Sarah Lake, and Wellman Lake.

Since Baldy Mountain was in the Grandview District, they would only patrol that far, to use the cabin for the night. The patrol would then continue the next morning.

Alf Lundy began his game warden career in 1943. He lived at Singush Lake the winter of 1943 and at Pine River for the next ten years, patrolling the Duck Mountains during that time. He retired in 1977 and now resides in Winnipeg.

In January 1944 numerous complaints came in about illegal hunting near Baldy Mountain, so a patrol was conducted. Lundy used a dog team to make the trip. He recalls staying at the old Baldy Mountian Cabin for three nights. Each night he would climb the Baldy Tower to look for the camp fires of poachers. On a calm night the smoke from camp fires could be seen for a long distance.

Donald S. Sinclair was the Forest Ranger in charge of the Grandview District from September 1, 1925 until November 30, 1930. One of his first priorities was to build a new cabin at Baldy Mountain. That cabin remains in exsistance until this time.

Sinclair's Forest Ranger career started in 1920 with the Dominion Forest Service. When the resposibility for the natural resources transferred to the province, Sinclair became a provincial employee until his retirement in 1955, with the exception of the period from 1939 to 1945 while he served overseas in the Forestry Corps. He was also a veteran of World War I.

A complete set of diaries details his daily activities from his arrival at the Grandview District until March, 1930.

These diaries provide a tremendous insight into the day to day activities of a forest ranger during that period. They also outline the frequent use which he made of the Baldy Mountain Cabin.

In order to patrol his district, Sinclair would travel to Baldy Mountain and use the cabin for a base of operation. A great deal of the district work load existed in the vicinity of Baldy Mountain. In winter, horses were the only means of transportation, thus a stable was a requirement and it was built at the same time as the existing cabin, 1925.

A wooden tower at the Baldy Mountain tower site existed at the time of Sinclairs arrival. Sinclair and a crew of men replaced the wooden tower with one made of steel. It was used until 1957

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GAME PROTECTION.

Winnipeg, Dec. 31st, 1902.

The Honourable the Minister of Agriculture and Immigration,

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit my annual report as Provincial Game Guardian for the year 1902, as follows:—

Owing to the rapidly increasing settlement of the Province during the past three years, especially in what has hitherto been considered outlying districts, the work of protecting our game, in accordance with the provisions of "The Game Protection Act," has become specially arduous. The districts referred to are along the line of the Canadian Northern Railway to the south-eastern part of the Province, the Teulon district and northward to Lake Winnipeg, on the east, and to Lake Manitoba, on the west, and all that portion of the Province from the foot of the Riding Mountains, on the south, to the northern boundary of the Province, and along the main line of the C. P. R. to the east, extending northwards to the Lac du Bonnet district. In these districts large game is found in abundance, and new settlers are tempted to shoot game whenever the opportunity offers, without any regard to "The Game Protection Act." Local game guardians in these districts have rendered valuable assistance by advising me, from time to time, regarding violations of the Act and assisting me in securing evidence in cases of prosecution. The want of justices of the peace in these outlying districts has prevented me from taking action in some cases, where the expense to bring suspected parties and witnesses to Court would be enormous, but a determined effort has been made to uphold the provisions of the Game Act and to prevent its violation with impunity.

The number of shooting licenses issued during the year was thirty-three, and the revenue derived therefrom $821.50. The number of taxidermists' licenses issued was five, and the revenue received was $25.

The number of prosecutions under "The Game Protection Act" was fourteen, and the fines imposed were $225, and costs $43.25.

The number of permits issued, for the purpose of domestication, was thirty-three, which included twenty-two moose, forty deer, one elk and twenty-four prairie chickens. The number of permits issued, for purpose of exportation of mounted heads, was sixty-seven, which included forty-three moose heads, nine deer heads, thirty elk heads, one

cariboo head. Permits to export one hundred and twenty-two live prairie chickens were granted. These birds were for natural parks in Ontario, the United States and Great Britain.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. BARBER,

Provincial Game Guardian.

Outdoor Personality

FRED HOWELL

Chief Game Guardian

A roving disposition coupled with a love of all wild things and an urge to action will more often than not put the plans of parents much awry. Such was the case with Alfred Bedford Howell, destined in childhood to become a tea merchant in the city of London. A comfortable, respectable business, the culmination of a college education and all the trimmings, but far too tame a setup for the young man who later became Chief Game Guardian of the Province of Manitoba. Early escapades included trips on coastal steamers as cabin boy, and finally at the early age of fourteen an Atlantic crossing and westward ho to Manitoba and the Pipestone district.

Farming begot a love of horses, of stock and of all wild things. He graduated to lumber camps, to the carpentry trade and even to a short period on the police force. In 1914 he enlisted in the First Canadian Mounted Rifles and went overseas for the duration of the First World War with the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major. He served with distinction, turned down the offer of a commission in the field, and was twice wounded, the second being a machine gun wound in the knee which left permanent injury and much discomfort.

Returning to civilian life in 1919, forestry provided an opening, and for a year or more Fred was on the payroll of the Dominion Government supervising woods operations and enforcing forestry regulations in the Riding Mountain. A vacancy in the Department of Agriculture provided an opportunity to transfer to the work in which he found his greatest satisfaction, game guardian in the same Riding Montain. (The Provincial Department of Agriculture administered game before 1930). For seven years Fred rode the trails winter and summer, in any weather, and his name was a by-word for strict and impartial law enforcement. With the transfer of the natural resources from the Dominion to the province in 1930 an opening was provided which proved to be a natural for Fred, the position of Chief Game Guardian. In the larger sphere he displayed a valuable executive ability, co-ordinating his staff into a smoothly working machine. He expects much from his men, but he gives as much himself, and his staff respect and admire him.

Fred Howell's relations with the public are extremely good. This was particularly noticeable when land owners in the Delta and Netley marshes were brought under an agreement with the province in respect to their trapping rights, and in the organizing of registered traplines in south-eastern Manitoba. So outstanding is the work of the Provincial Chief Game Guardian that he was the unanimous first choice of the committee appointed to select recipients for the 1948 Conservation Award.

Readers of Game and Fish will be sorry to hear that Fred Howell has been confined to bed for the past five months. All who know him will wish for him a return to health and to the position he has filled so well, that of a modern game conservationist, charged with the welfare and perpetuation of wildlife in the Province of Manitoba.

Annual Report 1948

Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources p. 34.

The Role of The Forest Ranger as outlined in the 1948 Annual Report.

I. ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL

The Forest Service administration is based on the Ranger District, an area designated by definite boundaries, supervised by a Forest Ranger. There are 35 such districts in the province, three more than last year. The size of districts varies greatly, depending on the forest values and activity found in the regions. A Forest Ranger administers all phases of the "Forest, and Fires Prevention Acts," and his diversified duties range from marking timber, scaling lumber, and supervision of slash disposal, to the suppression of fires. All improvements —such as towers, telephone lines, buildings, docks, etc. —in his district are constructed and maintained by him or under his supervision. He is responsible for equipment provided for carrying out his duties, and maintains these items, usually consisting of a half-ton truck, canoes and outboard motors, fire pumps, and a supply of fire-fighting equipment sufficient for above normal fire incidence.

The Forest Ranger keeps complete records of the activities in his district by means of a daily diary and numerous forms and reports in connection with timber, improvements and other administrative matters. His duties also include collection of forest insects, keeping fire hazard records, operating radio, and other duties too numerous to mention. Some Rangers also have rather specialized duties in connection with tree nurseries and recreational developments.

During the winter the Ranger normally works by himself. In summer he usually has one or more seasonal fire rangers to assist him, and towermen and patrolmen during periods of fire hazard. When construction and maintenance work beyond that which can be handled by the permanent and seasonal staff occurs, extra labor is hired on an hourly basis.

Seven of the 35 Rangers are Senior Rangers. They are in charge of Forest Reserves or important forest districts, and usually supervise the work of several Forest Rangers.

In order to maintain efficient administration, the province is divided into a Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western District, and the Whiteshell Forest Reserve, with offices at The Pas, Winnipeg, Dauphin and Rennie. The four District Foresters and Senior Ranger at Rennie control and advise on all phases of forest administration in their districts. They keep the Provincial Forester advised by means of monthly and annual reports, and refer matters of policy, etc., to head office. The Forest Service establishment calls for a technical Forester for each of the four districts, but at the present time only one of these is filled, due to lack of adequately trained personnel. The technical Forester in the Western District determines the annual cuts for areas under forest management, makes timber estimates and is the technical assistant to the District Forester.

The Provincial Forester directs the entire administration of the Forest Act and Fires Prevention Act, and is responsible for the work of the Forest Service to the Deputy Minister. He is assisted by a Chief of Forest Management and a Chief of Forest Protection, a Timber Sales and a Timber Permit Officer, and office staff. There are at present two vacancies for technical Foresters on the head office organization.

One timber cruiser, one draftsman-compiler, and two mechanical equipment operators are also on head office strength.

During the period under review three new Forest Ranger Districts were created, with headquarters at Baden, Wabowden and Cranberry Portage. The personnel for these positions were trained through methods similar to those employed under the "Training-on-the-job" plan of the two previous years. Two more men were being trained at the end of the year.

Annual Report, 1949

Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources p. 70.

The Role of the Game Warden in 1949.

PATROL SERVICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Patrol services in the southern part of the province were maintained on a very active basis during the 1948/49 year.

Long before the big game season it became evident that there was a very widespread "epidemic" of illegal hunting in progress, some of it on a commercial basis. Fortunately, there was also a rising tide of public indignation against this type of violation, which resulted in a flood of information being received from 23 separate districts in Southern Manitoba. An appeal to the R.C.M.P. brought splendid response from their personnel, not only in effective cooperative patrols and road blocks, but in independent action in their respective patrol areas. The patrol staff of this Branch was augmented by the employment of eight additional temporary men. A large number of successful prosecutions were entered and some of the more flagrant cases received heavy fines and wide publicity. It is a point worthy of note that a total of 52 convictions was registered under Section 25 of the Act alone. This section deals with the illegal possession of big game.

As will be seen from the comparative figures in Table XIX, improved standards of game protection have been reflected in the number of informations laid and convictions obtained. In game cases alone, exclusive of fishing infractions, almost one conviction per day throughout the year was registered.

Several winter patrols by air were made in connection with big game and game bird conditions, and a good deal of valuable information obtained. In the census of our big game populations the aeroplane is playing an increasingly useful part, particularly in areas of deciduous forest growth.

During the year a total of 361,842 miles were travelled south of the 53rd parallel, on enforcement patrols, this mileage being made up as follows:

Horse	9,010
Auto	270,616
Bus	546
Train	2,251
Plane	5,894
Boat	30,486
Dogs	4,168
Foot	11,792
Snowplane	4,064
Bombardier	23,015
Total	361,842

Patrol staff in Northern Manitoba consisted of 13 men, and most of the local patrolling was done by dog team in the winter and canoe in the summer. Aircraft of the Manitoba Government Air Service were extensively used on longer patrols. R.T.L. personnel in the North supervised commercial fishing on the smaller northern lakes in conjunction with R.T.L. duties. It is becoming more and more apparent that if proper patrol services are to be maintained, our patrol staff must be equipped with suitable winter transportation. The type of equipment most suitable would appear to be the bombardier.

Not all patrols are related to conservation of fish and game. The Conservation Officer is frequently called upon to render assistance to the public in a variety of other ways. During the spring of 1948 in the flooded areas of Manitoba, particularly in the Carrot River area west of The Pas, and in the St. Jean-Baptiste district, our men worked many long hours for a period of several weeks in helping local residents to evacuate and to salvage their livestock or household furnishings. Other patrols involved search for missing persons and bringing sick people in from isolated areas for urgent medical attention.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FOREST SERVICE AT THE TIME OF THE RESOURCE TRANSFER AGREEMENT JULY 15, 1930

The Forest Service has been organized so that all forest activities are under one head. This is a great improvement over the Dominion system under which two branches of the Department of the Interior (the Forestry Branch and the Crown Timber Branch) divided the administration of the forests between them. The Forestry Branch administered the Forest Reserves (with the exception of timber berths) and was responsible for fire protection on all Dominion lands, as well as forest surveys, research, and all work of a technical nature. The Crown Timber Branch administered timber berths on all Dominion lands and timber permits outside Forest Reserves. The result was an overlapping of responsibility in every district, the Forestry Branch being largely a spending organization, while the main function of the Crown Timber Branch was the collection of revenue. Under provincial administration all matters connected with the forest, including timber utilization, reforestation, forest protection and forest surveys are combined under the Forest Service, with the Provincial Forester as head. In addition to administering the forests on Provincial lands and Forest Reserves, this Service is responsible for the forests on "School Lands", these being administered for the benefit of the Department of Education.

The province has been divided into four Forest Districts, with a District Forester in charge of each. Under the District Forester is a permanent staff of Forest Rangers. Ordinarily each Ranger District covers a part of a Forest Reserve as well as adjacent provincial provincial lands outside the boundaries of the Forest Reserve, although in a few cases the Ranger District includes no Forest Reserve territory. The unorganized territory of northern and eastern Manitoba has a seasonal staff of fire rangers working in co-operation with a system of aerial patrol. In the Western District, which includes the large Duck Mountain and Porcupine Forest Reserves, a Forest Engineer is attached to the District Office.

In Head Office the staff consists of the Provincial Forester, Assistant Provincial Forester, Timber Sales Officer, Senior Forest Engineer, one clerk, and three stenographers.

The following table shows the location of the staff by districts and the area of forest land administered:

District	Location of Headquarters	Permanent Staff	Temporary Staff	FOREST AREA IN SQ. MI. Forest Res's.	Other Lands	TOTAL
Northern	The Pas	2	17	Nil	66,000	66,000
Southern	Winnipeg	9	3	522	3,678	4,200
Eastern	Winnipeg	4	12	950	25,728	26,500
Western	Dauphin	12	3	2,201	9,399	11,600
Head Office	Winnipeg	8	0	-	-	-
TOTALS		35	35	3,673	104,805	108,300

1 Manitoba, Dept of Mines & Natural Resources, Annual Report 1930-31 P. 1